

K-139

Suffolk
Kennedyville
c. 1840

Suffolk has been associated with the Howard family since the house was constructed in the second quarter of the 19th Century. Benjamin Howard began acquiring land in the vicinity in 1821, with the purchase of 100 acres of Green Forest and 200 acres of Suffolk, land that had previously been owned by Moses Briscoe.¹ An additional 106 acres were acquired in 1828 and 318 acres in 1837, the latter from his brother-in-law, Thomas Bevins.² Sometime in the late 1830's to early 1840's, Howard constructed a house for his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ellen and Dr. James Haman. Having purchased bricks from Chester Parish in 1834 (the remains of the church at I. U.), it is possible that he used these in the construction.

The house that Howard chose to build was very traditional in form and plan. Two other structures in the area, Maxwell's Purchase and State's Adventure share the same plan and form. These two, however, are earlier than Suffolk. At Suffolk there is a corbeled brick cornice. The main section has a center stairhall which is flanked by two rooms. There are an additional two rooms in the kitchen wing which is lower. The living room is well-finished having recessed windows with paneled splayed jambs and a panel beneath which extends to the floor. Door and window trim possess corner blocks and the mantel has a horizontal fluted frieze between two engaged columns, a design that is similar to the marble mantel installed at Rose Hill, Cecil County in 1837.

Like several other houses of the period, the stair balustrade is

simple, but the newel is made of tiger maple, a striking contrast to the dark mahogany handrail and a detail which is seen in furniture design of the period. This treatment can be found at Locust Hill Farm which was remodeled during the same period.

Benjamin Howard married for a second time in 1845. He first, however, drew up a premarital agreement with his bride-to-be, Augusta Eubanks of Baltimore. It stipulated that she would relinquish her dower in lieu of @200 per annum.³ Interestingly, his will, probated in March of 1885, revokes the premarital contract and allows his widow \$2000 per annum for the remainder of her life and specifies that her son should give her free board.

The inventory of Benjamin Howard's personal belongings included two interesting entries beside the usual furniture and equipment for the prosperous farm, "20 Peach boxes" and "12 barrels of plaster." Mr. Howard may have been an early peach grower, a favorite crop in the last half of the 19th Century. The plaster may have been left over from his building projects. The total amount of his personal belongings amounted to \$9825.60.⁴

In his will he bequeathed his home plantation to his daughter, Mary Ellen Haman, Green Forest and Lower Bloomfield to Joseph and Young's Neck and Upper Bloomfield to George.⁵ Upon the death of Mary Ellen Haman who had resided in Baltimore, all of her earthly possessions were bequeathed to her son and daughter.⁶ It is uncertain what happened to Kate Haman, but Benjamin Howard Haman of Baltimore was a prominent

attorney and bachelor. He bequeathed his assets to various friends and cousins in 1932.⁷ The heirs sold Suffolk in 1951 to the present owners.⁸

Since that time the house has been a tenant residence.

1. Land Records, Lib. TW 4, fol. 203.
2. Land Records, Lib. JNG 9, fol. 237; Wills, Lib. 10, fol. 352. Benjamin Howard married Rebecca Bevins, daughter of James Bevins, a prosperous farmer of the 2nd District. Howard was named co-executor in Bevins' will (1824), but he resigned the position for unspecified reasons. In 1840, Benjamin purchased the Notley Young Farm which James Bevins had devised to his son, Thomas, as a result of a chancery case brought to court in 1837, in which Howard was the Plaintiff.
3. Land Records, Lib. JNG 10, fol. 330.
4. Inventories, Lib. JP 1, fol. 74.
5. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 286.
6. Wills, Lib. TRS 1, fol. 280.
7. Wills, Lib. FWS 1, fol. 128.
8. Land Records, Lib. WHG 21, fol. 99.

K-139
Suffolk
Kennedyville
Private

Early 19th Century

Tradition holds that part of Suffolk house was constructed of bricks taken from the ruins of the first I.U. Church. The early 19th century dwelling is the typical two and one-half story house and wing with extremely delicate interior stair and paneled window surrounds. A handsome brick dairy and later frame Victorian barns remain on the property.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Suffolk

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North of Kennedyville, off Turners Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Elizabeth Miller

Telephone #: 348-5113

STREET & NUMBER

Blay's Range

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21645

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: W46 21

Folio #: 99

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-139

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
☒GOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
☒ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Suffolk is a brick house once part of a complex of 19th century buildings on a farm north of Kennedyville. The house is off Turner's Creek Road and faces south.

The house was probably constructed in the second quarter of the 19th century and is clearly transitional in design; it retains the plan and form of 18th century structures, but has a verticality and molding types which presage Victorian motifs.

The main house is five bays wide with a central entrance and three gable dormers in the gable roof. It is quite tall, one room deep with enclosed chimneys with rebuilt caps in the gables. There is a cellar. In the rear there is a window on the landing and the central dormer is lowered in order to light the stair hall. Walls are laid in common bond on rear facade and west gable and Flemish bond with narrow beaded mortar joints on front and east walls. The corbelled brick cornice consists of three courses. Window and door openings have simple flat arches of stretchers.

The wing is two stories tall with a gable roof and no dormers. It is nearly as wide as the main house and closely resembles it in detail, having the same corbelled cornice and window arches; like the main house, it has no water table or belt course. The bonding pattern is Liverpool. There are tiny, four-pane attic windows in the gable and an enclosed chimney. Entrances are located in the center two bays of the south facades; windows are located in other bays, except that, on the rear there are no windows in the two central bays.

Nine over six sash windows are used on the first floor of the main house with 6/6 sash used elsewhere. Basement windows have four iron bars in each. Trim consists of a single 1" bead; sills are simple and flush with walls. Shutters have all been removed but cast iron shutter dogs remain in place. There are no attic windows in the main house. Dormers have shallow gable roofs with cornice and return; the frames resemble pilasters with two grooves in each; sash is 6/6. The roof is finished with verge boards with wide beads.

Modern additions, including louvered porch and entry, have been built on the front of the house; otherwise the exterior has been altered very little.

The stair hall and parlor have windows and doors with wide reeded trim with central fillets and bull's eye corner blocks. Doors have six shallow raised panels with composite moldings around the edges. Both window and door openings are relatively tall and narrow. Parlor windows are recessed within their frames and have large square panels which reach the floor; jambs are paneled and splayed. The mantle in this room has a broadly fluted frieze and round engaged columns resting on plinths flanking the rectangular opening. The shelf is quite broad with flat molded edges. The baseboard is about 8" high with molded upper edge.

The dog leg stair has rectangular balusters, a turned tiger map newel and spandrel with four vertical panels. Like the other detailing in the house, the delicacy of the stair is remarkable with tiny

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Suffolk is a very charming transitional building which illustrates, in a vernacular building, the impact of a new architectural style on an earlier form. Because it retains much of its original detailing and is a carefully designed building, it is quite an important representative of Kent County architecture of its period. The loss of the dairy, an important architectural document of farm and domestic life, would be unfortunate.

Suffolk was granted to James Staveley in 1681; for years the property was owned by the Haman family. According to tradition part of the house was built of brick taken from the ruins of the first I.U. Church.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earle, Swepson, The Chesapeake Bay Country, New York, Weathervane Books, reprint, originally published by the author, 1923.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Socceity

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

7 Continued

scrolls on the open string.

The dining room is simple with narrow coved trim on windows and doors. The mantle has paneled pilasters. a plain shield on the frieze and a broken shelf with broadly molded edges. There is a cupboard with paneled double doors (the upper missing) beside the mantle.

The interior of the wing is modern.

An old brick dairy, badly deteriorated, remains. Its cornice is corbelled, like the house, and it has a gable roof with louvered cupula. Behind the house is a group of Victorian frame barns and sheds. One has wooden scollops on the eaves and an arched batten door.

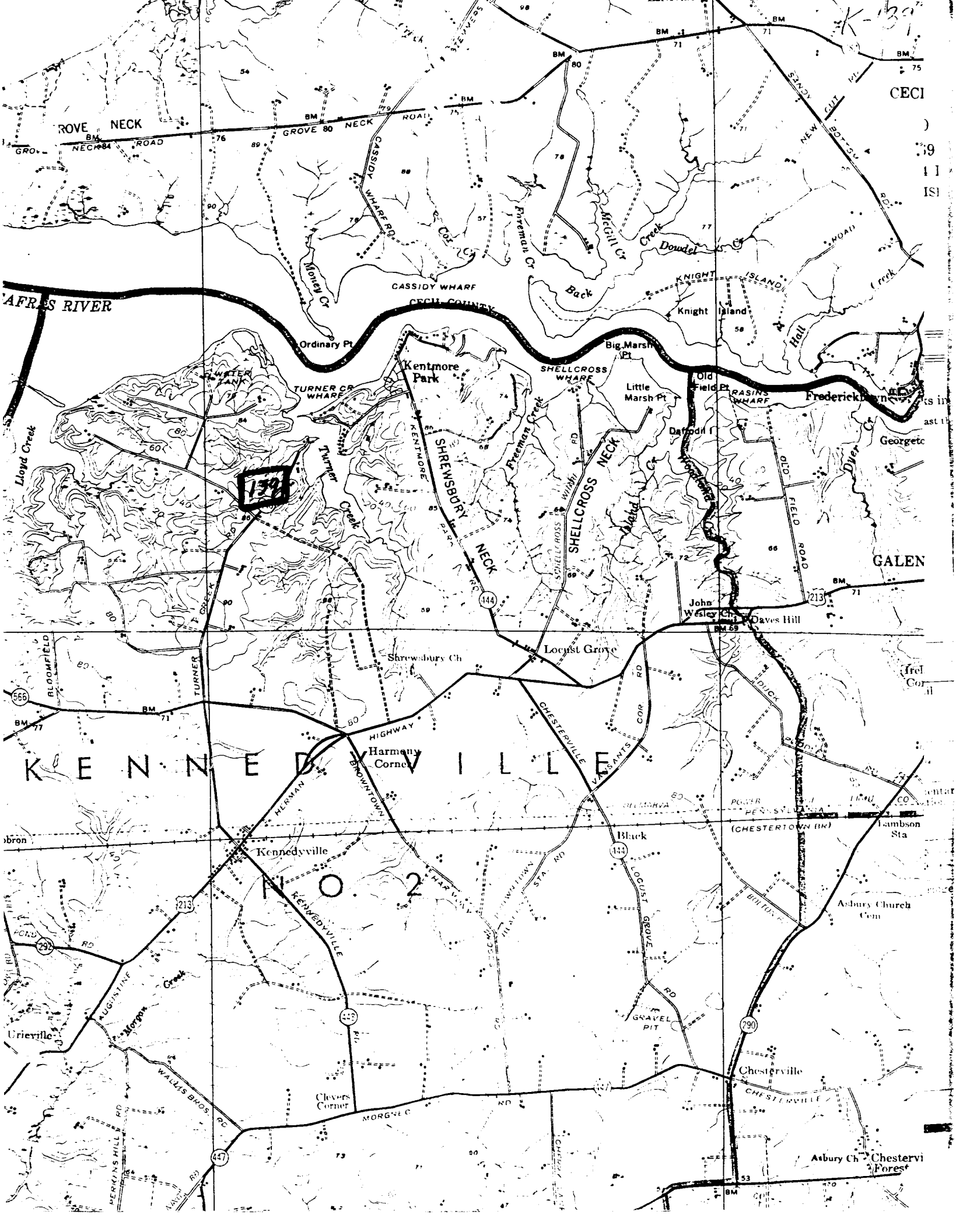
1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Kennedyville</u> VICINITY STREET NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>k-139</u>	
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Eliz. Miller -</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u>		2. NAME <u>Suffolk</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>early 19th Century</u> STYLE <u>Federal</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>	
<p> <u>Suffolk is a 2 1/2 story brick building laid: Flemish bond on the south and east sides, common bond on other sides. The front of the 2 part house is 5 bays long and four bays long on the wing. The roof of the 1st story of the main portion is 9/6 & the rest is 6/6. There are 3 dormers on each side of the "A" roof - the center one of the north being slightly lower than the other two, to accommodate the stair landing. The dormer has "A" roof and pilasters on each side. Above the windows and doors are flat brick arches. The breast windows are protected by horizontal iron bars placed close together. There is a corner of 3 stepped windows on south section of the house. The front of the center door is a modern vestibule. An enclosed porch is built on the south side of the wing. The rear of the house has only four irregularly placed bays on the main portion of</u> </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>fair</u>			
<p> <u>2 bays on the wing. The chimneys are within the gables and have been built 3 or 4 feet ^{above} the roof.</u> </p>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER	
		DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 18, 1968</u>	

Suffolk

1501395304

K-139

Suffolk is a two-and-one-half story brick building laid in Flenish bond on the south and east sides, common bond on other sides. The front of the two post house is five bays long and four bays long on the second story wing. The sashes of the first story of the main portion is 9/6 and the rest is 6/6. There are three dormers on each side of the A roof, the center one of the north being slightly lower than the other two, to accomodate the stair landing. The dormers have A roof and pilasters on each side. Above the windows and doors are flat brick arches. The basement windows are protected by horizontal iron bars placed close together. There is a cornice of stepped bricks on both sections of the house. In front of the center door is a (plain rectangular transom modern frame vestibule. An enclosed porch is built on the south side of the wing. The rear of the house has only four irregularly placed bays on the main portion & two bays on the wing. The chimneys are within the gables and have been built of new brick above the roof.





Suffolk

MAY K139

Turner's Creek Rd

Kennedysville Md.

Laurel

C. Engstrom

Aug 1977



Suffolk. MHT. R139
Turners Creek Rd
Kennedysville, Md
Fair Hall
O Engstrom
Aug 1977